

Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 T-03 OMB-01 AID-20 RSR-01 /145 W

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R 131110 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 630

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY ROME

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0353

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR SO ET

SUBJ: SIAD ON SOMALI- ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS

REF: MOGADISCIO 0345

SUMMARY. SIAD'S REMARKS ON SOMALI- ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS AT CONCLUSION HIS WIDELY- HERALDED MARCH 7 SPEECH (REFTEL) CONSTITUTE MOST IMPORTANT SOMALI STATEMENT ON SUBJECT IN SOME TIME. SIAD HAS EVIDENTLY REALIZED THAT BILATERAL EFFORTS TO RESOLVE DISPUTES WITH ETHIOPIA HAVE FOUNDERED AND FELT PUBLIC RESPONSE TO ETHIOPIAN MILITARY BUILD- UP REQUIRED. SIAD'S RESPONSE REFLECTS CONTINUED GSDR INTENTION TO AVOID MILITARY CONFRONTATION WITH ETHIOPIA AND TO SEEK TO DEFUSE CRISIS THROUGH DIPLOMACY. ON BALANCE, HIS REMARKS SEEM RELATIVELY HOPEFUL INDICATION OF SOMALI INTEREST IN PRESERVING PEACE IN HORN. END SUMMARY.

1. SIAD'S MARCH 7 STATEMENT WAS FORESHADOWED BY OMAR ARTEH'S
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COMMENTS ON HIS RETURN FROM ADDIS FEBRUARY 13 (MOGADISCIO 0261). ARTEH' S REPORT ON TRIP (MOGADISCIO 0314) AS WELL AS HIM' S LATEST MESSAGE HAVE APPARENTLY PERSUADED SIAD THAT HIS BILATERAL EFFORTS TO RESOLVE DISPUTE WITH ETHIOPIA ARE STYMIED AT LEAST FOR TIME BEING. ETHIOPIAN TROOP MOVEMENTS IN OGADEN, OF WHICH 3 MALI PUBLIC 2 ARE AWARE, PROBABLY REQUIRED SIAD TO TAKE SOME COUNTERACTION OR FACE PROSPECT OF INITIATIVE PASSING TO HARD LINE ELEMENTS IN REGIME WHO FAVOR ACTIVIST POLICY TOWARD ETHIOPIA.

2. THUS SIAD' S APPEAL TO OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO MEDIATE DISPUTE. ETHIOPIAN CHARGE INFORMS US SOMALIA HAS ALREADY APPROACHED SEVERAL AFRICAN COUNTRIES INCLUDING SUDAN, UGANDA, TANZANIA, AND NUMBER OF NORTH AFRICAN COUNTRIES INCLUDING MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA. HE EXPECTS SOMALIA WILL RAISE IRREDENTIST CLAIMS AT MAY OAU MEETING.

3. SIAD' S OBJECTIVES IN SEEKING INVOLVEMENT OF OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES PROBABLY INCLUDE:

- LIMIT OR PUT HALT TO FURTHER ETHIOPIAN MILITARY BUILD- UPS IN BORDER AREA;
- STRENGTHEN SOMALIA' S IMAGE AS " RESPONSIBLE" MEMBER OF AFRICAN COMMUNITY AND TO PUT ETHIOPIANS ON DEFENSIVE DIPLOMATICALLY;
- CONVINCE SOMALI PUBLIC (AND HIS DOMESTIC OPPONENTS) THAT REGIME WORKING ACTIVELY TO ACHIEVE GOAL OF " NATIONAL UNIFICATION".

4. SIAD' S REMARKS ABOUT " IMPERIALISTS" INSTIGATING CONFLICTS BETWEEN SOMALIA AND ITS NEIGHBORS OBVIOUSLY HAS TROUBLING IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR RELATIONS WITH SOMALIA. DIFFICULT TO ASSESS DEGREE TO WHICH SIAD REALLY ASSOCIATES US WITH RECENT ETHIOPIAN ACTIONS. WORTH NOTING THAT SOMALIS INVARIABLY BLAME " IMPERIALISTS" FOR ANY INTER- AFRICAN CONFLICTS, AS IN CASE OF UGANDA- TANZANIA DISPUTE. THIS TACTIC ALSO MAKES IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR OTHER AFRICAN STATES TO DECLINE TO MEDIATE.

5. SIAD' S DECISION TO CONFINE IMMEDIATE SOMALI RESPONSE TO ETHIOPIAN BUILD- UP FOR TIME BEING TO DIPLOMATIC AREAN OBVIOUSLY NOT WITHOUT RISK. THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS OF DISSATISFACTION WITHIN MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT OVER SIAD' S " SOFT LINE" TOWARDS ETHIOPIA. SIAD' S ONLY REFERENCE TO SOMALI MILITARY IN MARCH 7
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SPEECH (OTHER THAN STATEMENT THAT SOMALIA WOULD DEFEND ITSELF

IF ATTACKED) WAS CALL ON MILITARY TO PLAY LEADING ROLE IN
CAMPAIGN TO ERADICATE ILLITERACY IN SOMALIA.

6. GIVEN SOMALI NERVOUSNESS OVER ETHIOPIAN MILITARY BUILD- UP,
SIAD' S RESPONSE STRIKES US AS RESTRAINED AND TO SOME EXTENT
REASSURING. BELIEVE SIAD WISHES AVOID MILITARY CONFRONTATION
WITH ETHIOPIA AT THIS TIME AND DEFUSE PRESENT CRISIS BY ENLISTING
AID OF OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES. DESPITE ETHIOPIAN AND KENYAN
DREAD OF OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE, AND/ OR MEDIATION IN CONTROVERSY
WITH SOMALIA, SIAD' S STATEMENT CONSTITUTES A SIGNAL TO
" COOL IT."
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